



Special to Nikita Stewart
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Please Contact: Pamela E. Goldstein 733-6368

Mayor Sharpe James' Statement on Bergen Street Revitalization

"Newark's next major area of redevelopment will be in the South Ward beginning with the construction and completion of the gleaming new, South Ward Industrial Park and continuing with the construction of the Shabazz High School athletic facilities, the building of 600 two family homes and the revitalization of the Bergen Street and other commercial corridors.

"We are launching our MINT (Municipal Initiative for Neighborhood Transformation) on Bergen Street, which runs from the border of the South Ward and Hillside through the very heart of Newark. Once one of the most elegant shopping streets in Newark, Bergen Street is enjoying a resurgence of activity, providing the Weequahic and Clinton Hill neighborhoods with a variety of services and shopping choices all within a few compact blocks, including a book shop, hardware store, pharmacy, restaurants, bakeries, cleaners and bank. It is truly a wonderful neighborhood shopping district offering all the amenities of a big city, in a small town atmosphere.

Bergen Street ad 1

“The City will conduct and administer the work on the program, which provides \$12,000 to \$15,000 for façade improvements on each property for such items as window replacement, lighting, painting, signage and awnings—all to spruce up the exterior of building and make the community look more attractive and have a more uniform look.

“Bergen Street will become a model for all of Newark and for other cities across the country. The City is allocating \$1.5 million for the first two stages of the MINT program. This money will be used for the upper part of South Orange Avenue between Stuyvesant and Sanford Avenues, as well as Bergen Street. One million dollars is being provided by the Urban Enterprise Zone program, with the remaining \$500,000 funded from the federal Community Development Block Grant.

“We are excited about this program and our continued efforts to improve and beautify both Newark’s historic and emerging neighborhoods.

“In taking a holistic approach to Newark’s continuing renaissance, our philosophy and mission always has been to revitalize the downtown in concert with the revitalization of our neighborhoods.”